

MAR 23 2000

AMERICAN FALLS RESERVOIR DISTRICT
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March 8, 2000

RE: Salmon Hearings

I'm against flow augmentation for the following reasons:

The flow of water from the ⁴²⁷6,000 acre-feet test for Salmon has not proven successful.

To take an additional one (1) million acre-feet of water for flow augmentation from the Upper Snake River Basin would dry up more that 600,000 acres of productive farmland at an annual cost of over \$430 million and cause the loss of thousands of agricultural jobs.

Any water taken from the Upper Snake River Basin storage water is water taken from North Side Canal's 5/8 inch per acre water right.

During drought years North Side Canal's allotment from that 5/8" right had to be reduced to 70% thru the later part of July and August.

Some farmers chose to run their share of the water out at 100% and ran out of water in early August and were unable to finish their crops.

Some farmers chose to save some of their 70% delivery to use on their later crops, thru August. This stressed their hay, pasture and grain causing a loss of production.

If sugar beets, potatoes and beans are not watered thru August and September, they dry up from the summer heat.

Potatoes will start a second growth which destroys the quality, and sugar beets completely stop growing.

We try to operate with some carry-over water, as insurance for a possible dry year, the next year. We can't do that in dry years.

It is essential that we have carry-over rights, if we don't use all our storage water.

Any water taken from the Upper Snake River Basin from storage or natural flow rights would be a serious disaster for the economy of the population of Eastern and Southern Idaho.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Russell Woolley".

Russell Woolley
President
Board of Directors
AMERICAN FALLS RESERVOIR DISTRICT

President
Board of Directors
NORTH SIDE CANAL COMPANY